

the world what America's true values really are. We care about the environment and we care to keep the world safe from nuclear proliferation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the sponsor and the cosponsor of the legislation.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close if the gentleman from New York has no further speakers.

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, as my colleagues and I have been speaking on this bill for the last 10 minutes, over 300,000 pounds of plastic has entered our oceans. It is amazing to think about that, just in the 10 minutes we have been speaking here today.

Reversing this trend and preventing plastic from choking our oceans will require this coordinated global response that is both practical, innovative, measurable, and, quite frankly, it is the right thing to do for our future generations.

With the PLASTICS Act, we will be taking a huge large step in that direction. We have a duty to protect future generations from the repercussions of today's waste. I also strongly support ongoing efforts to ensure final passage of Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, which includes components of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their great bipartisan work. I also thank my dear chairman, ELIOT ENGEL, and the gentleman from New York. Chairman ENGEL has been a dear friend of mine in this Congress. We are going to be sad to see him go, but I know he has bright aspirations for his future, and we look forward to celebrating with him. And one way we can celebrate this is by passing the PLASTICS Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the manager and the sponsor of this legislation for their kind courtesies.

Mr. Speaker, it is never too late to say "thank you," and I wanted to just not forget to thank Chairman ENGEL for the years of commitment to these issues and to his service on the Foreign Affairs and the Energy and Commerce Committees.

I know this list of legislative initiatives has had the impact of our manager, the distinguished gentleman from New York, and certainly all of the friends and the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. But I think it is appropriate, having known Mr. ENGEL for a very long time, that he is a true believer in democracy, he is a believer in the international responsibilities of the United States, and he is also one who recognizes transition of government in the right way. He is transitioning, and he is doing it with dignity and respect.

Mr. Speaker, I want to express to him my deepest respect for his service to not only the United States Congress and his family's sacrifice, but to the United States of America. We thank him for that service. It is my desire to have that in the RECORD at this time. I thank him on behalf of this Nation.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a great example of how America can lead in finding solutions to environmental challenges such as this one, a grave challenge to the world, and helps to create jobs and builds prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support it, and I am grateful that Mr. MCCAUL and all the bill's cosponsors have put this forward.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4636, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMERICAN VALUES AND SECURITY IN INTERNATIONAL ATHLETICS ACT

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8405) to direct the Department of State to ensure persons representing the United States in international athletic competitions in certain countries are appropriately informed, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8405

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "American Values and Security in International Athletics Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2017, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) revised its Host City Contract to require host countries to "protect and respect human rights and ensure any violation of human rights is remedied in a manner consistent with international agreements, laws, and regulations applicable in the Host Country and in a manner consistent with all internationally recognised human rights standards and principles, including the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, applicable in the Host Country".

(2) The Olympic Charter states the goal of Olympism is "to place sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind, with a view to promoting a peaceful society concerned with the preservation of human dignity".

(3) The IOC set up an advisory committee on human rights in December 2018, and IOC

President Thomas Bach said, "Promoting humanistic values in sport has been a core feature of the IOC since its beginning. Our mission, to put sport at the service of humanity, goes hand-in-hand with human rights, which is part of our DNA."

(4) In the report, "The Cybersecurity of Olympic Sports: New Opportunities, New Risks", the UC Berkeley Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity listed the "hacking and release of sensitive athletic data" as one of the four significant categories of cyberattacks on major sporting events.

(5) According to the State Department's 2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, the People's Republic of China's Ministry of Public Security employs "tens of millions of surveillance cameras" to monitor the general public, as well as "political dissidents, religious leaders and adherents, Tibetans, and Uyghurs".

(6) The People's Republic of China (PRC) Government's extensive use of artificial intelligence surveillance technology, including facial and voice pattern recognition technology, poses grave humanitarian, privacy, and security concerns. PRC authorities have used surveillance technology to monitor, control, and repress an estimated 1.8 million Uyghurs and other Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. PRC State media has confirmed that "voice, image, position and behavior recognition technologies" will be used in the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics.

SEC. 3. HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS FOR AMERICAN ATHLETIC DELEGATIONS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that individuals representing the United States at international athletic competitions in foreign countries should have the opportunity to be informed about human rights and security concerns in such countries and how best to safeguard their personal security and privacy.

(b) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall devise and implement a strategy for disseminating briefing materials, including information described in subsection (c), to individuals representing the United States at international athletic competitions in a covered country.

(2) TIMING AND FORM OF MATERIALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The briefing materials referred to in paragraph (1) shall be offered not later than 180 days prior to the commencement of an international athletic competition in a covered country.

(B) FORM OF DELIVERY.—Briefing materials related to the human rights record of covered countries may be delivered electronically or disseminated in person, as appropriate.

(C) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Information briefing materials related to personal security risks may be offered electronically, in written format, by video teleconference, or prerecorded video.

(3) CONSULTATIONS.—In devising and implementing the strategy required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State shall consult with the following:

(A) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations in the Senate, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(B) Leading human rights nongovernmental organizations and relevant subject-matter experts in determining the content of the briefings required under this subsection.

(C) The United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and the national governing bodies of amateur sports that play a role in determining which individuals represent the United States in international

athletic competitions, regarding the most appropriate and effective method to disseminate briefing materials.

(c) **CONTENT OF BRIEFINGS.**—The briefing materials required under subsection (b) shall include, with respect to a covered country hosting an international athletic competition in which individuals may represent the United States, the following:

(1) Information on the human rights concerns present in such covered country, as described in the Department of State's Annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.

(2) Information, as applicable, on risks such individuals may face to their personal and digital privacy and security, and recommended measures to safeguard against certain forms of foreign intelligence targeting, as appropriate.

(d) **COVERED COUNTRY DEFINED.**—In this section, the term "covered country" means, with respect to a country hosting an international athletic competition in which individuals representing the United States may participate, any of the following:

(1) Any Communist country specified in subsection (f) of section 620 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2370(f)).

(2) Any country ranked as a Tier 3 country in the most recent Department of State's annual Trafficking in Persons Report.

(3) Any other country the Secretary of State determines present serious human rights concerns for the purpose of informing such individuals.

(4) Any country the Secretary of State, in consultation with other cabinet officials as appropriate, determines presents a serious counterintelligence risk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 8405.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me commend Mr. MCCAUL, our ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, for authoring this bill. We know that people-to-people connections are a great way to build bridges of friendship and understanding between countries, and that international sports have long provided the best example for those connections.

Yet, even as we put serious differences aside to see major sporting events go forward, we cannot ignore the fact that some governments simply don't respect basic human rights, and may seek to violate the privacy of our athletes by collecting information about them without their knowledge or consent.

We think about China hosting the upcoming Winter Olympics. We will be sending our athletes to a country where the government conducts mass

surveillance and abuses the human rights of its own citizens. Our athletes have the right to know about their security concerns, and about how best to keep themselves and their privacy secure.

This legislation will require the State Department to develop a strategy to better support our athletes. We want to make sure that they understand the security and human rights situations in the countries where they compete and can take the best steps to protect themselves. It is a common-sense bill, and I am glad to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his support, and Chairman ENGEL, once again. The 2008 Beijing Summer Olympics were a triumph for the China Communist Party and a significant blow for human rights.

While the CCP aired lavish television spectacles for the world to see, they were evicting people from their homes, arresting activists, and harassing foreign journalists. Now, 12 years later, human rights abuses have only escalated in China.

The CCP is currently oppressing anywhere from 1 to 3 million ethnic minorities in Xinjiang. These prison camps are described as oppressive with harsh labor conditions, brainwashing, and even forced sterilizations and abortions. The Department of Defense has compared them to concentration camps.

At the same time, the CCP continues to crack down on the people of Hong Kong for simply asking for the freedoms they were promised. And we should never forget the role the CCP played in the COVID-19 pandemic. In an attempt to hide the truth from the world and cover up their own culpability in allowing what could have been a regional epidemic, they allowed it to turn into a global pandemic. The CCP destroyed lab samples and threatened and arrested doctors and journalists who were simply just trying to report the truth.

However, even with all this happening, Beijing is still set to host the 2022 Winter Olympics. Unfortunately, the International Olympic Committee has shown their lack of concern for the CCP's escalating human rights violations, whether it be the Uighur Muslims, the Tibetan monks or the Christian population.

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They are even refusing to discuss moving the games and have refused to use the upcoming games to simply put pressure on the CCP to stop their attacks on human rights.

Just like they did in 2008, the CCP will try to use games, including American athletes, to whitewash their history and improve their image.

Today, there is no structure to prepare our athletic delegations for this threat.

That is why Chairman ENGEL and I introduced the American Values and Security in International Athletics Act.

This bipartisan bill would direct the State Department to establish a briefing program on human rights violations and personal privacy concerns American athletes will face in countries that denigrate human rights, like China.

So when we send our American athletes to represent us in authoritarian countries that flagrantly abuse human rights, those athletes deserve to know exactly what is happening. Then they can make an informed decision about their own participation, particularly as we prepare for the 2022 games.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 40th anniversary of the United States boycott on the Moscow Olympics.

At that time, in support of President Carter's boycott against the Soviet Union, famous sports journalist Howard Cosell said:

It seemed absolutely wrong to me to let the Soviet Union use our athletes and our technology capabilities to broadcast their perverse propaganda to every corner of the globe.

I agree with Howard Cosell.

Mr. Speaker, we need to come together again to raise awareness for the next winter Olympics in China.

Silence is not an option. And this bipartisan bill is an important step to ensure the United States Olympians, many of whom are icons and adored by our children as role models, to make sure that they are educated about where they are competing when they go abroad to China.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Mr. MCCAUL for his bipartisan leadership on this matter. I urge a "yes" vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, hosting the Olympics is an honor that indicates the host country's legitimacy on the world stage, but unfortunately, this honor has been handed to governments who misuse it time and again.

We cannot let the Olympic games become a tool for corrupt and malign governments to conceal their behavior and portray themselves in a positive light. We know that the CCP will use international participation in the Olympics to normalize its atrocities. They have done it once before.

At the very least, we should ensure that American athletes have the opportunity to at least be informed and to protect themselves and their personal privacy.

We have all traveled, as Members of Congress, across the globe to oppressive governments. Many of us have been under surveillance in hostile governments like Russia and China and other countries. This bill simply allows

for our athletes to have the same courtesy, to be briefed in advance about the threats that they may face while they are in the host country at the Olympics in China.

Again, I want to thank the gentleman from New York for his support; Chairman ENGEL, my dear friend, for cosponsoring the bill, along with Representatives SHERMAN, SPANBERGER, and PHILLIPS.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8405.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

BELARUS DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND SOVEREIGNTY ACT OF 2020

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8438) to reauthorize the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8438

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Section 2 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

“Congress finds the following:

“(1) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to engage in a pattern of clear and persistent violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

“(2) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to engage in a pattern of clear and uncorrected violations of basic principles of democratic governance, including through a series of fundamentally flawed presidential and parliamentary elections undermining the legitimacy of executive and legislative authority in that country.

“(3) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to subject thousands of pro-democracy political activists and peaceful protesters to harassment, beatings, and imprisonment, particularly as a result of their attempts to peacefully exercise their right to freedom of assembly and association.

“(4) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to suppress independent media and journalists and to restrict access to the internet, including social media and other digital communica-

tion platforms, in violation of the right to freedom of speech and expression of those dissenting from the dictatorship of Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

“(5) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues a systematic campaign of harassment, repression, and closure of nongovernmental organizations, including independent trade unions and entrepreneurs, creating a climate of fear that inhibits the development of civil society and social solidarity.

“(6) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, has pursued a policy undermining the country’s sovereignty and independence by making Belarus political, economic, cultural, and societal interests subservient to those of Russia.

“(7) The Government of Belarus, led by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, continues to reduce the independence of Belarus through integration into a so-called ‘Union State’ that is under the control of Russia.

“(8) On August 9, 2020, the Government of Belarus conducted a presidential election that was fraudulent and did not meet international standards. There were serious irregularities with ballot counting and the reporting of election results. The Government of Belarus also put in place restrictive measures that impeded the work of local independent observers and did not provide sufficient notice to the OSCE to allow for the OSCE to monitor the elections, as is customary.

“(9) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the Government of Belarus responded to the peaceful opposition protests, which are the largest in Belarus history, with a violent crackdown, including, according to the United Nations Special Rapporteur, the detention of more than 10,000 peaceful protesters as of September 18, 2020.

“(10) Thousands of employees at Belarusian state-owned enterprises, who have been seen as Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s traditional base during his 26-year rule, went on strike across the country to protest Lukashenka’s illegitimate election and the subsequent crackdowns, including at some of Belarus’s largest factories such as the BelAZ truck plant, the Minsk Tractor Works, and the Minsk Automobile Plant.

“(11) Women have served as the leading force in demonstrations across the country, protesting the police brutality and mass detentions by wearing white, carrying flowers, forming ‘solidarity chains’, and unmasking undercover police trying to arrest demonstrators.

“(12) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the Government of Belarus has sought to stop the work of the Coordination Council, which was formed by the leading opposition presidential candidate, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, to facilitate a peaceful transition of power by subjecting the Council’s senior members to violence, detention, and forced exile.

“(13) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the Government of Belarus restricted the free flow of information to silence the opposition and to conceal the regime’s violent crackdown on peaceful protesters, including by stripping the accreditation of journalists from major foreign news outlets, disrupting internet access, limiting access to social media and other digital communication platforms, and detaining and harassing countless journalists.

“(14) Before the European Parliament on August 25, 2020, Tsikhanouskaya stressed that a ‘peaceful revolution’ was underway in Belarus, and that ‘It is neither a pro-Russian nor anti-Russian revolution. It is neither an anti-European Union nor a pro-European

Union revolution. It is a democratic revolution.’.

“(15) Against the will of the majority of the Belarusian people, Russian President Vladimir Putin has propped up the Alyaksandr Lukashenka regime, including by offering security assistance, providing significant financial support, and sending Russian propagandists to help disseminate pro-regime propaganda on Belarus state television.

“(16) After the August 9, 2020, presidential election, the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada condemned the violent crackdown on peaceful protesters, refused to accept the results of the fraudulent election and called for new free and fair elections under independent observation.

“(17) On September 8, 2020, Secretary of State Michael R. Pompeo said, ‘The United States, in coordination with our partners and Allies, is considering additional targeted sanctions to promote accountability for those involved in human rights abuses and repression in Belarus.’.

“(18) Following Alyaksandr Lukashenka’s September 23, 2020, secret inauguration, the United States, the European Union, numerous European Union member states, the United Kingdom, and Canada announced they did not recognize him as the legitimately elected leader of Belarus.”.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

Section 3 of the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 109-480; 22 U.S.C. 5811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

“It is the policy of the United States to—

“(1) condemn the conduct of the August 9, 2020, presidential election and crackdown on opposition candidates, senior members of the Coordination Council, peaceful protesters, employees from state-owned enterprises participating in strikes, independent election observers, and independent journalists and bloggers;

“(2) continue to call for the immediate release without preconditions of all political prisoners in Belarus, including all those individuals detained in connection with the August 9, 2020, presidential election, a leading opposition figure Maryia Kalesnikava, and United States citizen Vitali Shklyarov;

“(3) continue to support the aspirations of the people of Belarus for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law;

“(4) continue to support the aspirations of the people of Belarus to exercise their religion freely, including the head of the Catholic Church in Belarus Archbishop Tadeusz Kondrusiewicz who was barred from entering the country after criticizing Belarusian authorities;

“(5) continue to support actively the aspirations of the people of the Republic of Belarus to preserve the independence and sovereignty of their country;

“(6) not to recognize any incorporation of Belarus into a ‘Union State’ with Russia, as this so-called ‘Union State’ would be both an attempt to absorb Belarus and a step to reconstituting the totalitarian Soviet Union;

“(7) continue to reject the results of the fraudulent August 9, 2020, presidential election in Belarus, and to support calls for new presidential and parliamentary elections, conducted in a manner that is free and fair according to OSCE standards and under the supervision of OSCE observers and independent domestic observers;

“(8) refuse to recognize Alyaksandr Lukashenka as the legitimately elected leader of Belarus;